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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia/Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 20 Nov. 1950

SUBJECT Soviet Tanks on Border

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 19 and 20 July 1950 more than 100 Soviet T-34 tanks were observed at a distance of 500 meters from the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border, in the Dragoman-Caribrod sector. On the same dates 12 large modern Soviet Stalin III tanks approached the Zajecar sector a distance of approximately two hundred meters from the border. Upon reaching the above places 500 and 200 meters from the border respectively, the tanks went into a line formation, their guns facing the Yugoslav border. They held this position for over 36 hours and then withdrew deeper into Bulgarian territory.
2. The appearance of the above tanks created a panic among the Yugoslav border units. Constant telephone communications and calls were made all along the border to study the situation and ask for orders. Yugoslav infantry units stationed near the border were in a state of alert for 40 hours. All possible border crossings, previously mined, were made ready for demolition by the Yugoslav Army. However, orders for demolition were not issued.
3. Koca Popovic, Chief of the General Staff Headquarters, and Ivan Gosnjak Assistant Minister of National Defense, in the capacity of chiefs of the operational and rear-echelon sections of the Supreme Command, left for Zajecar at once, and a meeting was held in Zajecar with the top ranking officers there. It appears that the Yugoslav Information Services were correctly informed that this was just a propaganda move; that is that the purpose of the move was merely to boost the morale of Bulgarian troops and to frighten Yugoslav border units. For this reason no special defense measures were undertaken.

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Comment: For previous information on the disposition of Soviet troops in Bulgaria 25X1A

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